

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 SCA-01 DHA-02 ORM-02
IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 H-01 L-03
PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 /076 W
-----140135Z 088885 /73

R 121359Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6127
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3370

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, US, IS
SUBJECT: OPERATIONS OF U.S. VOLUNTARY AGENCIES IN THE OCCUPIED
TERRITORIES

REFS: (A) TEL AVIV 3021, (B) STATE 95673

1. EMBOFF MET WITH GONNEN (MFA REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORIES) ON MAY 11, AND RECEIVED WHAT WILL PROBABLY BE GENERAL THRUST OF GOI RESPONSE TO REF B. GONEN SAID THAT THE MFA STUDY ON THE ROLE OF THE VOLAGS HAS BEEN COMPLETED. IN SUM, IT SAYS THAT THE GOI WELCOMES THE OPERATIONS OF THE VOLAGS, BUT IT IS FOR THE LATTER TO COORDINATE PROFESSIONALLY WITH THE APPROPRIATE GOI AGENCIES (IN OTHER WORDS, THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN RESPONSIBILITY FOR VOLAG OPERATIONS IN THE TERRITORIES, WHICH REMAINS WITH THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE (MSW) AND THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT). GONNEN MENTIONED ALLUSION IN REF B TO "INDEPENDENT ACTIVITY," AND STATED THAT THIS WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION. NO OCCUPYING POWER WOULD ALLOW SUCH LATITUDE. THERE ARE SOME EIGHTEEN VOLAGS WORKING WITHIN THE TERRITORIES, MOST WITHOUT ANY SUBSTANTIVE PROBLEMS WITH THE GOI. IT IS FOR THE OTHERS, I.E., ANERA AND CDF, TO COME TO A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MSW.

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2. WHILE DISCUSSING THE SPECIFICS OF THE SITUATION, GONNEN OBSERVED THAT AVITZUR OF THE MSW, AS WELL AS THE CDF, HAD BUILT "TRENCHES" AROUND THEIR POSITIONS AND WERE NOT FLEXIBLE. AVITZUR AND GAZA MILITARY GOVERNOR MAIMON ARE TO MEET WITHIN A FEW DAYS TO DISCUSS THE HANDLING OF THE CDF ISSUE, BUT IT IS UNLIKELY THAT AVITZUR WILL MELLOW

TO ANY APPRECIABLE DEGREE.

3. EMBOFF MET THE SAME DAY WITH CDF LOCAL REP BELSKIS, WHO WAS TOLD BY GONNEN SEVERAL DAYS EARLIER THAT WHILE THE GOI, MILGOV, AND MSW DESIRED CDF TO OPERATE IN GAZA, CDF WOULD STILL HAVE TO COME TO A WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH THE APPROPRIATE GOI PROFESSIONAL BODY -- THE MSW. AS A RESULT, BELSKIS HAS COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT THE MSW AND MILGOV (FOR SECURITY AND OTHER REASONS) ARE SIMPLY UNWILLING TO ALLOW CDF TO RUN AND AUTONOMOUS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WHICH WOULD HAVE ULTIMATELY COVERED ALL THE REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT AREAS IN GAZA, TOTAL- LING SOME 70,000 PEOPLE. THE GOI WOULD RATHER SEE CDF DEPART THAN PERMIT SUCH A LARGE AND POTENTIALLY INFLUENTIAL PROGRAM TO OPERATE OUTSIDE OF GOI CONTROL. AS A RESULT, ACCORDING TO BELSKIS, AT FORTHCOMING MEETING OF CDF PROGRAMMING BOARD IN U.S., OPTIONS THAT WILL BE CONSIDERED ARE PHASING OUT OF PROGRAM IN GAZA OR SEEKING MODIFICATION OF GRANT TO DROP ORIGINAL COMMUNITY CENTER PROJECT AND ALLOW FUNDING OF DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. BELSKIS NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT HE STILL HAS MEETINGS WITH THE MSW AND MILGOV, AND IS WAITING TO SEE IF THERE WILL BE ANY GIVE ON THE GOI SIDE.

4. COMMENT: IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT THAT THE AUTONOMY THE GOI WILL ALLOW A VOLAG IN THE TERRITORIES IS IN INVERSE PROPORTION TO THE POLITICAL ORIENTATION OF THE VOLAG OR THE SENSITIVITY OF THE PROJECT. ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FROM A U.S. STANDPOINT, "INDEPENDENT VOLAG
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ACTIVITY WITH INFORMAL LIAISON WITH THE GOI" SEEMS OUT OF THE QUESTION AS FAR AS THE GOI IS CONCERNED. THE MFA WOULD LIKE TO AVOID BILATERAL PROBLEMS ON THE VOLAG ISSUE --BUT NOT AT THE COST OF ALLOWING ANY VOLAGS TO OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY OF THE ISRAEL AUTHORITIES. THE MSW, FOR PROFESSIONAL AND BUREAUCRATIC REASONS, AND THE MILGOV FOR SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS, SHARE THIS VIEW. WE ANTICIPATE THAT MFA'S OFFICIAL RESPONSE TO OUR REPRESENTATIONS PER REF A WILL REFLECT THIS POSITION.
DUNNIGAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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